Free land-line connection of MTNL

1696. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL are offering a free land-line connection for a period of one year to subscribers who have a land-line connection for at least a period of one year;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether any alternative option like reduction in tariff has been given to those eligible subscribers who do not want to another free land-line connection; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A promotional plan for landline service (1+1) has been launched with effect from 1st November, 2005 with one free additional landline connection at the same address and in the same name of the subscriber without any registration charge, security deposit and monthly rental for a period of one year to the customer.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) This scheme is introduced to increase the number of landline connections so as to utilize the network and increase revenue.

Inadequate cell sites in NDMC Area

1697. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a faulty coverage of cellular phone in NDMC area; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the faulty coverage is due to inadequate number of cell sites against the minimum required number of 156; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the inadequate number of cell sites is due to obstructionist attitude adopted by NDMC in delaying/refusing permission for cell sites; and

(d) whether Government have examined the whole issue; if so, with what results and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Poor coverage of mobile services had been reported in some parts of Delhi especially in New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) area. This is primarily due to inability of the operators to install the required number of telecom towers/ cell sites in these areas due to the problems in getting the requisite permission from NDMC and other agencies.

Now, the NDMC and other agencies have started granting requisite permission for installation of telecom towers/cell sites and necessary steps are being taken by the mobile operators to install additional mobile towers in these areas to improve coverage.

Construction of BSNL mobile towers

†1698. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers proposed to be installed by BSNL, district-wise, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) by when these mobile towers would be installed in the country;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that signals are not received at BSNL mobiles on Bulandshahr-Shikarpur route in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) whether mobile towers are proposed to be installed on the said route by BSNL and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in the process of expanding its cellular network by installing around 14000 additional towers for Mobile Base Transreceiver Stations (BTSs) during the current financial year. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.